

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE



*glimpses
of glory*

MESSAGE: NATHAN BAIRD

MUSIC: PAOLO CORONEL, REBECCA FRENCH, DAN GILLETTE

DATE: JUNE 18, 2023

Continually Responding to the Kingdom News Results in a Fruitful Life Luke 8:1 - 18

Jesus's message bore fruit in those who whole-heartedly responded to God's Kingdom news.

Luke 8:1 *Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him, 2 and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, 3 and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means.*

Jesus's Kingdom Parable of the Four Soils

Luke 8:4 *And when a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable, 5 "A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. 6 And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. 7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. 8 And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold." As he said these things, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."*

Jesus explains how and why "results may vary" although people hear the same news.

Luke 8:9 *And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, 10 he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that 'seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.' 11 Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.*

- 1. Hearers who reject the Kingdom Message contemptuously discard God's salvation.**
v.12 The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.
- 2. Hearers who respond superficially are powerless to endure suffering.**
v.13 And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away.
- 3. Hearers who respond with a divided focus are unproductive.**
v.14 And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature.
- 4. Hearers who make God's Kingdom the focus of their life bear fruit tenaciously!**
v.15 As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.

If we respond..	by discarding the word, (v12)	superficially, (v13)	with divided devotion, (v14)	holding fast with a good heart, (v15)
we end up..	rejecting the gift of life.	powerless to endure hardship.	fruitless.	living abundant lives!

Persistently acting on the news of God's Kingdom WILL produce visible and multiplying results.

Luke 8:16 "No one after lighting a lamp covers it with a jar or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light. **17** For nothing is hidden that will not be made manifest, nor is anything secret that will not be known and come to light. **18** Take care then how you hear, for to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he thinks that he has will be taken away."

Luke 6:47 Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them... **48** he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built.

Reflection/Discussion

- 1) Jesus concludes in verse 18 with a warning that our ability to receive more understanding (and therefore abundant life) hinges on the way we respond to his words. Which of the four ways of hearing best describes your life?
- 2) Re-read Jesus's words in Luke 6:47-49 and compare the passage with Jesus's explanation of the four soils in Luke 8. How does responding to Jesus's words produce resilience against life's trials?
- 3) Are there any of Jesus's words that you set aside and don't follow? How might your life change if you took to heart and acted on his Kingdom proclamation in its entirety?

SONGS

- "KING OF HEAVEN (OH OUR LORD)"
- "THIS IS OUR GOD"
- "GOD OF RENEWAL"
- "HYMN OF HEAVEN"

Crossing Music Pastor: Dan Gillette (dan@vbc.online)

BUDGET

- GIVING LAST WEEK: \$ 38,458.40
- WEEKLY NEED: \$ 36,985.00
- Y-T-D GIVING: \$ 802,106.04
- Y-T-D GENERAL NEED: \$ 887,640.00
- ALTAMONT CAMPUS EXPANSION FUND:
[Last Entry - 06/07] \$ 79,654.78

VBC FAMILY ROSTER



Behold Podcast: vbc.online/behold

Communication & Giving: Envelopes for financial gifts, prayer requests, & communication to our church leadership are in the seatback pockets. Please deposit the envelopes in the offering boxes by the exit doors. Thank you!